IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A method for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

setting product use period and longest part useful life of product;

determining product use period $\leq$ 0.5 x longest part useful life; and

automatically proposing reuse of parts when product use period $\leq$ 0.5 x longest part useful life is satisfied.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): A method for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

generating information concerning worth degradability wherein worth deterioration of parts relates to discard of product and cost ratio of parts to a whole product; and

extracting, from the information, parts which is impossible to upgrade and has highest worth degradability as improvement object parts.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): A method for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

generating information concerning use period and useful life of parts; and

extracting, from the information, parts which is impossible to upgrade and has shortest use period as improvement object parts.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A method for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

generating information concerning use period and useful life of parts; and

extracting, from the information, parts whose maintenance replacement is impossible and whose useful life is shortest as improvement object parts.

Claims 5-7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A method for aiding product life cycle planning comprising:

generating information concerning a use period of reuse source product i, a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in the reuse source product, a use period of reuse destination product i', a production period of reuse source product i and a production period of reuse destination product i': and determining that parts is possible to reuse only in the case where the remaining useful life of parts j to be included in the reuse source product remains more than the use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period of reuse source product i is elapsed, and worth of parts j continues even if time lag until production of reuse destination product i' is started, the production period of reuse source product i and the use period of reuse destination product i' are considered, and the amount of recovery of reuse source product i is enough within the production period of reuse destination product i' based on the information.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): An apparatus for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

a setting device configured to set product use period and longest part useful life of product;

a determination section configured to determine product use period $\leqq 0.5$ x longest part useful life; and

a proposing device configured to automatically propose reuse of parts when product use period $\leqq 0.5$ x longest part useful life is satisfied.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): An apparatus for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

a generator configured to generate information concerning worth degradability wherein worth deterioration of parts relates to discard of product and cost ratio of parts to a whole product; and

an extracting device configured to extract, from the information, parts which is impossible to upgrade and has highest worth degradability as improvement object parts.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): An apparatus for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

a generator configured to generate information concerning use period and useful life of parts; and

an extracting device configured to extract, from the information, parts which is impossible to upgrade and has shortest use period as improvement object parts.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): An apparatus for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

a generator configured to generate information concerning use period and useful life of parts; and

an extracting device configured to extract, from the information, parts whose maintenance replacement is impossible and whose useful life is shortest as improvement object parts.

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): An apparatus for aiding product life cycle planning comprising:

a generator configured to generate information concerning a use period of reuse source product i, a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in the reuse source product, a use period of reuse destination product i', a production period of reuse source product i and a production period of reuse destination product i': and

means for determining that parts is possible to reuse only in the case where the remaining useful life of parts j to be included in the reuse source product remains more than the use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period of reuse source product i is elapsed, and worth of parts j continues even if time lag until production of reuse destination product i' is started, the production period of reuse source product i and the use period of reuse destination product i' are considered, and the amount of recovery of reuse source product i is enough within the, production period of reuse destination product i' based on the information.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A program product for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

means for instructing a computer to prepare product use period and longest part useful life of product;

means for instructing the computer to determine product use period $\leqq 0.5$ x longest part useful life; and

means for instructing the computer to propose parts reuse to the new product when product use period $\leqq 0.5$ x longest part useful life is satisfied.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A program product for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

means for instructing a computer to generate information concerning a use period of reuse source product i, a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in the reuse source product, a use period of reuse destination product i', the production period of reuse source product i and a production period of reuse destination product i': and

means for instructing the computer to determine that parts is possible to reuse only in the case where the remaining, useful life of parts j to be included', in the reuse source product remains more than the use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period of reuse source product i is elapsed, and worth of parts j continues even if time lag until production of reuse destination product i' is started, the production period of reuse source product i and the use period of reuse destination product i' are considered, and the amount of recovery of reuse source product i is enough within the production period of reuse destination product i' based on the information.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A program product for aiding product life cycle planning according to claim 19, comprising means for instructing to set the product use period such that a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in' the reuse source product remains more than the use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period of reuse source product i is elapsed.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A program product for aiding product life cycle planning comprising:

means for instructing a computer to prepare information concerning worth degradability wherein worth deterioration of parts relates to discard of product and cost ratio of parts to a whole product;

means for instructing the computer to extract parts whose cost ratio exceeds threshold and whose worth degradability is highest as improvement object parts; and

means for instructing to propose inexpensive upgrade wherein cost ratio is not more than threshold about the improvement object parts.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A program product for aiding product life cycle planning comprising:

means for instructing a computer to prepare information concerning use period of parts and cost ratio of parts to a whole product;

means for instructing the computer to extract parts whose cost ratio exceeds threshold and whose use period is shortest as improvement object parts; and

means for instructing to propose inexpensive upgrade wherein cost ratio is not more than threshold about the improvement object parts.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A program product for aiding product life cycle planning comprising:

means for instructing a computer to prepare information concerning useful life of parts;

means for instructing the computer to extract parts whose maintenance replacement is impossible and whose useful life is shortest as improvement object parts; and

means for instructing the computer to propose maintenance about the improvement object parts.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A program product for aiding product life cycle planning comprising:

means for instructing a computer to prepare information concerning use period and useful life of parts;

means for instructing the computer to extract parts whose cost ratio exceeds threshold and whose useful life is shortest as improvement object parts; and

means for instructing the computer to propose inexpensive maintenance wherein cost ratio is not more than threshold about the improvement object parts.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A program product for aiding product life cycle planning comprising:

means for instructing a computer to prepare information concerning degradation and abrasiveness of parts and cost ratio of parts to the whole product;

means for instructing the computer to extract parts whose cost ratio exceeds threshold and whose degradation and abrasiveness are largest as improvement object parts; and

means for instructing the computer' to propose inexpensive maintenance wherein cost ratio is not more than threshold about the improvement object parts.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A method for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

setting a threshold value concerning reuse of parts with respect to cost and environment;

reading cost of parts and environment load information from a database;

displaying parts on a map displayed on a display device and divided into a plurality of

domains based on the threshold;

selecting reuse candidate parts from the displayed parts with reference to the

displayed map;

calculating a useful life based condition formula for determining that parts are

possible to reuse only in the case where a remaining useful life of parks j to be included in a

reuse source product i remains more than a use period of a reuse destination product i' even if

the use period of the reuse source product i is elapsed;

determining whether the useful -life based condition formula is satisfied; and

determining possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the

useful life based condition formula is satisfied.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, wherein the

map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse should be actively examined, a

domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable

for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, further

comprising:

calculating a worth life based condition formula for determining that worth of parts j

satisfying the useful life based condition formula continues even if time lag until production

of reuse destination product i' is started, the production period of reuse source product i and

the use period of reuse destination product i' are considered.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse should be actively examined, a domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for aiding product life cycle planning, comprising:

an input device configured to set a threshold value concerning reuse of parts with respect to cost and environment;

a reading device configured to read cost of parts and environment load information from a database;

a display device configured to display parts on a map divided into a plurality of domains based on the threshold;

a selecting device configured to select reuse candidate parts from the displayed parts with reference to the displayed map;

a computing device configured to calculate a useful life based condition formula for determining that parts are possible to reuse only in the case where a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in a reuse source product i remains more than a use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period of the reuse source product i is elapsed;

a determining unit configured to determine whether the useful life based condition formula is satisfied;

a determining unit configured to determine possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the useful life based condition formula is satisfied.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain, where reuse should be actively examined, a domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising:

a computing device configured to calculate a worth life based condition formula for determining that worth of parts j satisfying the useful life based condition formula continues even if time lag until production of reuse destination product i' is started, the production period of reuse source product i and the use period of reuse destination product i' are considered.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse should be actively examined, a domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A computer readable recording medium containing a computer program to aide product life cycle planning, the program comprising instructions to:

set a threshold value concerning reuse of parts with respect to cost and environment;

read cost of parts and environment load information from a database;

display parts on a map divided into a plurality of domains based on the threshold;

~~select~~ <u>receive a selection of</u> reuse candidate parts from the displayed parts with reference to the displayed map;

calculate a useful life based condition formula for determining that parts are possible to reuse only in the case where a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in a reuse source product remains more than a use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period of the reuse source product i is elapsed;

determine whether the useful life based condition formula is satisfied; and

determine possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the useful life based condition formula is satisfied.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The computer readable recording medium according to claim 34, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse should be actively examined, a domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The computer readable recording medium according to claim 34, further comprising instructions to calculate a worth life based condition formula for determining that worth of parts j satisfying the useful life based condition formula continues even if time lag until production of reuse destination product i' is started, the production period of reuse source product i and the use period of reuse destination product i' are considered.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The computer readable recording medium according to claim 36, wherein the map is divided into four domains: a domain where reuse

should be actively examined, a domain where reuse should be fairly actively examined, a

domain which fails to be suitable for reuse and a domain where reuse is examined.